

Emily E. Story
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December 13, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: DA 12-1863, IB Docket No. 12-340, RM-11683

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I fully appreciate and support Commission's work as it strives to accommodate the administration's critical goal of making available 500 MHz of spectrum for wireless broadband use. However, I was surprised and concerned by GAO's recent findings that at any given time or place, federal spectrum "lies fallow or is only intermittently used." This is especially troubling as a resident of a rural state, where citizens could substantially benefit from the expanded mobile connectivity that would result from more efficiently used spectrum. We in Arkansas are frequently reminded that limited service is still an issue. For example, just this week, statewide media covered an accident where a teenage hiker fell from a cliff in rural North Arkansas, and it took his companions hours to call for help, because they had trouble finding a spot with mobile coverage. I work for a non-profit that puts on an annual event attended by more than 50,000 people. We rely on dependable connectivity to communicate with staff, vendors, and participants before, during, and after our event, to let folks know where to be and when. TechNet's just-released report on state broadband lists Arkansas as the worst in the nation in an index that looks at factors like adoption and network quality. This puts our residents behind when it comes to taking advantage of education opportunities, jobs, and health services. Unfortunately, the spectrum issue will continue to get worse.

Our country's wireless data traffic is growing 300% every year because applications and services require more and more bandwidth. Therefore, the FCC and NTIA should work to ensure every ounce of spectrum viable for wireless broadband does not remain fallow or otherwise inefficiently utilized. This is a mounting problem that will not fix itself; the FCC and NTIA should move with speed to make sure that the economy doesn't fall off the rails because of insufficient wireless broadband capacity.

By approving LightSquared's application to share spectrum, the Commission is leveraging 5 MHz of federal spectrum into a wireless broadband network with a nationwide 10x10 MHz channel that offers as much capacity and speed that only one other carrier can currently match. LightSquared has committed to protecting federal operations in the 5 MHz it proposes to share, and the Commission should allow this private investment in our wireless infrastructure to further secure our economy and national well-being. This will help increase the affordability and

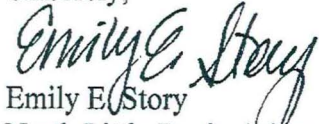
coverage of current wireless broadband networks, which is especially important for rural states like mine.

Like many of my friends and neighbors, I have continued to be dismayed by the high costs of data plans offered by carriers today, which also force very limited mobility in the use of LTE-enabled "mobile" devices. For example, under the standard \$50 monthly rate for a 5 GB data plan, tablet consumers who stream just two hours of video have to choose to either turn off their LTE services, pay an additional \$10 for each additional hour of streaming video, or just stay rooted near a Wi-Fi hotspot. This is akin to buying a car and only being able to drive it once or twice a month because gas costs are prohibitively high.

Clearly, the wireless marketplace needs more competition and more broadband spectrum. LightSquared's proposal is an efficient and effective step in the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Emily E. Story

North Little Rock, Arkansas

cc:

U.S. Senator Mark Pryor

U.S. Senator John Boozman

U.S. Representative Steve Womack